

R. RAYMOND GREEN, M. D.

PHYSICIAN & SURGEON
SPECIALTY SURGERY
45 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HEBER CITY, UTAH 84032

PHONE 654-1622

William Meeks' Sawmill
in Center Creek Canyon

On 11 Aug 1988 I went to LeRoy Sweat's home and he took me up Center Creek Canyon to the Cattle Association Corral.

About 300 yards to the north, on the east side of the road, he showed me an indendation in the side of the hill measuring about 12' x 36' where the log cabin bunk house used to be for William Meeks' Sawmill crew.

Water from three sources; Crooked Creek, Spring Canyon and Main Center Canyon, were brought together into one canal running north on the east hill then turned down this small hill and flowed west over a vertical water wheel to drive the saw for William Meeks' sawmill in summers of 1859 and 1860.

This was the first known sawmill in Wasatch County and it sawed the red pine logs snaked out of Canyon to the south. These timbers were used to construct many early homes and buildings in Heber, Provo, and Great Salt Lake City.

R R Green. MD
11 Aug 1988
2nd Draft Completed
3 Mar 1989

WILLIAM AND MARY
ELIZABETH RHODES MEEKS

William Meeks, son of Athel and Ann Vest Meeks.

Born January 9, 1815, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Married Mary Elizabeth Rhodes.
Died November 30, 1877, St. George, Utah, killed riding a horse.

MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES



Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, daughter of George Henry Rhodes and Elizabeth Nissinger. Born January 23, 1818, in Boone, Warrick County, Indiana. Died March 29, 1900 at Bicknell, Utah.

William came to Utah in 1852 in Capt. Nissinger's Company with his parents. After arriving in Utah the Meeks family moved to Nephi, Utah. Three years later they were called to go to Fort Supply in Wyoming where they stayed during the time Johnston's army came through.

In 1858 or 1859 William Meeks came into Provo Valley with Joseph Parker, William Cummings, William Wall and Andrew Ross. They cut some hay and fed their livestock on what they called Meek's Bottom about two miles southwest of the present Heber City.

During the winter of 1859 and 1860 William Meeks and others built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon, which was the pioneer sawmill in the valley. A grand-daughter, Mary Ann Meeks Wirthlin says her grandfather, William Meeks suggested that the town be called Heber City, after the given name of Heber C. Kimball.

William Meeks was the first Presiding Elder in the valley. In 1860 he helped to build a log cabin, 16 feet by 40 feet which was used for the Pioneer Day celebration that year.

The Meeks family moved to Provo from Heber City and Midway, and from there to St. George where William was killed in a horse accident.

Children of William and Mary were:
Harvey, married Catharine Dowdle
Henry, married Ann Mecham
Elizabeth, married Jared Bullock
Mary Ann, married William Cummings
William, married Sarah Gardner
Joseph, married Vilate Burgess

Mary Jane, married James Pierce
Mary Melissa, married Willard Snow
Mary Louisa, married James Gardner.

*First sawmill
in the Provo
River Valley!*

*=Center Creek
Canyon =James
Adams & turned out
first lumber by fall
of 1860.*

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Born January 9, 1815, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Married Mary Elizabeth Rhodes.

Died November 30, 1877, St. George, Utah, killed riding a horse.



MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES



Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, daughter of George Hoge Rhodes and Morrison Nissonger, was born Jan. 3, 1855, in Boston, Mass., and died at Heber, Utah, March 29, 1922, at age 67.

William came to Utah in 1852 in Capt. Nissonger's Company with his parents. After arriving in Utah the Meeks family moved to Nephi, Utah. Three years later they were called to go to Fort Supply in Wyoming where they stayed during the time Johnston's army came through.

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HARVEY MEEKS



Harvey Meeks, the son of William Meeks and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, was born April 9, 1838. He came to Utah with his parents in 1852, in Captain Nissonger's Company.

He married Sarah Catherine Dowdle who came to Utah in 1847. To Harvey and Sarah Catherine were born the following children:

Harvey Porter
Jane Catherine
William Hyrum
David Henry
Electa Ann
Mary Elizabeth
John Jerde
George Wylie
Loretta Mae
Thomas Elmer

The Harvey Meeks' were good parents and true pioneers. Mr. Meeks delighted in well bred horses and always drove a beautiful span of high spirited animals. Mrs. Meeks was clean and orderly. **664**